



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING OF THE
SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL
INSPECTIONS
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 372
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012**

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

10:00 AM

Present: Chairperson Montaño, Vice Chairperson Bacio, Commissioner Bigby, Commissioner Hill and Commissioner Moore

Excused: Commissioner Hall

The Pledge of Allegiance will be led by Chairperson Montaño.

Chairperson Montaño led in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed with a moment of silence.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Meeting to be called to order by Chairperson Montaño. (11-4986)

**Chairperson Montaño called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.
Commissioner Moore joined the meeting at 10:10 a.m.**

Self introductions were made by those in attendance.

2. Approval of the November 2, 2011 Minutes. (11-4988)

On motion of Commissioner Bigby, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Bacio, unanimously carried, the minutes of the meeting of November 9, 2011 were approved.

Ayes: 4 - Chairperson Montaño, Vice Chairperson Bacio, Commissioner Bigby and Commissioner Moore

Abstentions: 1 - Commissioner Hill

Excused: 1 - Commissioner Hall

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORTS

3. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Department of Auditor-Controller
Department of Children and Family Services
Internal Services Department
Department of Mental Health
Probation Department
Sheriff's Department (11-4994)

Department of Auditor-Controller's Office

Carla Carr, Group Home Ombudsman of the Auditor-Controller's Office, reported on two complaints filed by clients at Pennacle Group Home; she stated that she spoke with staff at Community Care Licensing (CCL) regarding the September 28, 2011 complaint filed against Pennacle Group Home "Corning Site" for the lack of supervision, and was informed that the allegation was substantiated on October 3, 2011. A Corrective Action Plan (CAP) was submitted by Pennacle Group Home, which includes retraining staff; the CAP approved by CCL on October 24, 2011. She stated that the results of the investigation into the September 27, 2011 complaint against Pennacle Group Home is forthcoming.

Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)

Elizabeth Howard, CSA III, Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), introduced Ms. Patricia Balonos-Gonzalez as the replacement for Ms. Dorothy Channel (Retired); she stated that Ms. Balonos-Gonzalez is an expert in developing group home programs, expansion of sites, and that she also collaborates with the State of California in developing their processes pertaining to group home licensing.

Ms. Howard, reported there were three referrals on Pennacle Group Home in June 2011, two were unfounded and one was deemed inconclusive. Ms. Howard explained that Group Homes are placed of Corrective Action Plans once the referrals are investigated and are deemed inconclusive.

Ms. Howard reported DCFS received a total of 46 Group Home referrals during the period of September 22, 2011 through November 15, 2011. There were 16 referrals in the category of Physical Abuse: one was unfounded, two were evaluated out to the appropriate departments for

investigation, and 13 remain pending. There were 22 referrals of General Neglect: One was unfounded, three were evaluated out to the appropriate departments for investigation and 18 remain pending; and there were six referrals of Sexual Abuse: two were evaluated out to the appropriate departments for investigation and four remain pending; one referral of Emotional Abuse which is pending and one referral for At-Risk which is pending. Ms. Howard also reported that during the same period there were 876 Runaways, DCFS is working with the Sheriff's Department, the Probation Department and other agencies in a collaborative effort to reduce and or prevent the number of Runaways incidents.

Following discussion, Ms. Balonos-Gonzalez agreed to provide the Commission with a copy of the current California Rate Increase Payment to Group Homes.

Internal Services Department

Mr. William Kiriya, Manager II, Maintenance Operations Division, Internal Service Department (ISD) will report back to the Commission his findings on the status of roof and tile repairs to be completed at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall.

Department of Mental Health

There was no one present to speak before the Commission.

Probation Department

Ms. Pamela Pease, Acting Supervising Deputy Probation Officer of the Probation Department (PD), reported that currently no Group Homes are on hold. There were a total of 172 Absent Without Leave (AWOL) involving 171 different youths during the period of September 2011 through October 2011; 96 remain AWOL; five went to camp; 34 returned to Group Homes; 33 were placed in juvenile hall; one was placed on home probation; one was placed in a Soda Pad.

During the months of September and October 2011 there were six child abuse investigations, four were classified as unfounded, one was substantiated for general neglect and one is pending investigation. Additionally, there were 15 Group Home Monitoring investigations during the same period, six were substantiated, five were unfounded and four are pending investigation. In closing, Ms. Pease reported that staff at

Bayfront Group Home who allegedly restrained a youth in order to keep the youth from going AWOL, has been retrained on the best methods in handling difficult situations.

Sheriff's Department

Commander Asmus, Sheriff's Department, stated he would provide the presentation on behalf of Commander Cooper. Commander Asmus distributed a statistical report which details inmate assaults on inmates, inmate assaults on staff, and the use of force by Sheriff Deputies at County Jail Facilities. He noted that the Use of Force incidents declined during the month of October 2011, and that the controversies plaguing the Sheriff's Department, though problematic, may be a good thing, as they allow the department to be introspective and focus on solutions.

Commander Asmus stated that he was contacted by Judge Kline, Criminal Courts, regarding an inmate who was to be released from jail, who asked for an additional two weeks of jail time in order to complete the MERIT life skills program, which provides inmates alternative solutions in coping with challenging personal issues. Commander Asmus commented that the SMART program is positive and amazing.

Commander Asmus invited the Commission to the Sheriff Department's 23rd Annual 999 Christmas Celebration of the Department of Children and Family Services deaf and most fragile children, and their caregivers. The celebration will be held on Sunday, December 24, 2011 at the STAR Center in Whittier at 11:00 a.m. Additional information regarding the event will be forwarded to the Commission by Commander Asmus or a member of his staff.

Following discussion, Commissioner Moore requested that statistic reflecting the number of attempted suicides and actual suicide in County Jail Facilities is included in the Sheriff's monthly report to the Commission. Similarly, Commissioner Moore requested said information from Pamela Pease of the Probation Department; however, the report should include minor on minor assaults, minor assaults on staff and the use of force and disturbances involving probation department youths at group home facilities.

- 4. Chairperson's Report on Various Items for November 16, 2011. (11-4989)**

Chairperson Montaño shared the following newspaper articles with the Commission.

Daily Breeze:

- **Prison Transfer Backgrounds Draw Protest from County (November 16, 2011)**
- **Bad Deputies Became Jailers (November 14, 2011)**

Los Angeles Times:

- **County Jails Filling Faster than Feared (November 16, 2011)**
- **Powerful Sheriff (Editorial - November 16, 2011)**
- **No Simple Solution on Jails (Editorial - November 15, 2011)**
- **Baca used Jails to punish Deputies (November 13, 2011)**
- **Prison Realignment done Right (Editorial - November 13, 2011)**
- **Does the Sheriff get a Pass? (Postscript - November 12, 2011)**
- **Jails May Run Out of Room Within Weeks (November 11, 2011)**
- **Baca to Investigate Former Head of Jail (November 10, 2011)**
- **Open Courts for Kids (Editorial - November 10, 2011)**
- **Probe Targets Former Chief of County Jail (November 10, 2011)**

5. Treasurer's Report for November 16, 2011. (11-4990)

Vice Chairperson Bacio reported that the current bank statement balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$605.77.

6. Staff Report on Correspondence Received, and Department Representative Reports. (11-4991)

Nyla Jefferson, staff, Commission Services, received a memo from Commissioner Bigby, regarding the Internal Services Department's New Commissioner Card Parking Permit process; she informed the Commissioners that Commission Services is exploring other avenues which would make the parking process less cumbersome.

7. Review of Group Home Compliance Monitoring Audit Reports. (11-4992)

There were none.

8. Commissioners' Reports on Group Homes and/or Detention Facilities Inspections from November 10, 2011 to November 15, 2011. (11-4993)

During the reporting period the following Group Homes/Facilities were reported as being in satisfactory condition:

Chairperson Montaña visited Murrell's Farm Boys Home "East" - 29 #1, on November 15, 2011; and West Hollywood Sheriff Station, on November 14, 2011.

Vice Chairperson Bacio visited San Gabriel Children's Center "RTI / Enid" - 38 #2, on November 10, 2011, and noted the roof has a serious leak and that there missing ceiling tiles in the girls' lock-up/dormitory.

Vice Chairperson Bacio and Commissioner Moore visited Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall on November 15, 2011.

Commissioners Hall and Moore visited Dangerfield Group Home #1 - 10 #4, on November 10, 2011.

Commissioners Bigby and Hill visited David & Margaret Home - 11 #4, on November 15, 2011.

III. DISCUSSION

- 9.** Discussion on Preparing a Presentation to Sheriff Baca on the Most Effective Way to Enhance Existing Programs Offered to Inmates in County Jail Facilities. (11-4998)

This item was continued to the Commissions' November 30, 2011 meeting.

- 10.** Review and Consideration of the Commission's 2012 Meeting Schedule. (11-4999)

The Commissions' 2012 meeting schedule was approved with the following exceptions:

The November 21st Business meeting was cancelled, and the December 19th meeting will be held.

Attachments: [SUP8PORTING DOCUMENT](#)

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

- 11.** Matters not on the posted agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action came to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (11-4995)

There were no matters presented for a future agenda.

Public Comment

12. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (11-4996)

There were no members of the public present to address the Commission.

Adjournment

13. Adjournment for the meeting of November 16, 2011. (11-4997)

The November 16, 2011 meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m. The November 23, 2011 meeting was canceled, the next scheduled meeting will be held on November 30, 2011.

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